

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 49-78 are pending in this application. Claims 51-66 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 49, 50, 73, and 74 have been deleted herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 67-70, 75, 77, and 78 have been amended. Specifically, claims 67, 68, 77, and 78 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. The dependencies of claims 69, 70, and 75 have therefore been amended to correspond to the new independent claims 67, 68, 77, and 78.

As the Examiner indicated that claims 67-72 and 75-78 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form at page 2 of the present Office Action, Applicants respectfully request the timely allowance of amended claims 67-72 and 75-78.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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